



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS WEEK

- WHEREAS: Suicide has been declared a serious public health problem by the United States Surgeon General; and
- WHEREAS: In 2016 alone, suicide claimed the lives of more than 1,403 Georgia citizens, and many more lives have since been tragically lost to suicide; and
- WHEREAS: Suicide affects countless lives, including the families and loved ones affected by such tragedies; and
- WHEREAS: Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death overall in Georgia, and the third leading cause of death for individuals 15–24 years of age across the state; and
- WHEREAS: In the past three years, 144 youth have taken their own lives in Georgia. For every young person who dies by suicide, national statistics indicate 25 others will have attempted to take their own lives; and
- WHEREAS: More Georgians die by suicide than by homicide. Most deaths by suicide are preventable through a multi-faceted approach, including developing and implementing public information campaigns, designed to increase knowledge of suicide prevention and understanding of the role of risk and protective factors; and
- WHEREAS: Building awareness of the public health problem presented by suicide and generating awareness of the resources available to reduce its impact are essential steps in this ongoing effort; and
- WHEREAS: The most effective way to prevent suicide is for people from every walk of life, faith, ethnic background, and age group to work together in forming a strong social support network. A truly successful prevention plan must include more than just mental health professionals; and
- WHEREAS: The Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan, adopted June 30, 2001, provides a framework for every Georgian to become involved in preventing suicide; and
- WHEREAS: Collaboration among the public and private sector should be encouraged in addressing this critical public health issue. The implementation of the Suicide Prevention Plan is supported by many notable Georgia organizations, governmental agencies, and individuals; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 9–15, 2018, as SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF